
IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES.

JUNE 2, 1896.—Ordered to be printed.

Mr. MITCHELL, of Wisconsin, from the Committee on Pensions, submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany S. 2916.]

The Committee on Pensions, to whom was referred the bill (S. 2916) granting an increase of pension to Mary Sprague, have examined the same and report:

The beneficiary named in the bill was pensioned at \$12 per month by special act passed by the Forty-ninth Congress. She served as an army nurse from May 22, 1861, to December, 1863. Her first service was in Washington Street Hospital, Alexandria, Va., under Surg. Lawrence Sheldon, United States Army, being subsequently transferred to the Mansion House Hospital in the same city. For a part of this service she was allowed by Congress \$12 per month, which was all the compensation she received for most faithful and arduous duties. In November, 1862, she entered Armory Square Hospital, Washington, D. C., receiving no pay for her services until transferred to Island Hall Hospital, where she was allowed \$12 per month for two months.

She was in continuous service as nurse for two years and six months, a portion of the time receiving no pay, and contributing of her scanty means for purchasing delicacies for the sick and wounded. There is an abundance of official testimony as to her faithfulness and efficiency for which the pension of \$12 per month allowed her of recent years is but scant reward, being now 77 years old, and without other means of support. She is also rendered physically helpless by the fracture of both wrists. Your committee is of the opinion that for the few remaining years of her life she ought to have a pension sufficient to provide her with at least the necessaries of life.

Her husband, Augustus Sprague, served as private in Company B, Second Michigan Volunteers, from May 24, 1861, to October 18, 1862, when he was discharged on surgeon's certificate of disability. He died some years ago, leaving his widow, the faithful and devoted nurse, destitute and helpless.

For the foregoing reasons, your committee recommend that the bill be amended by striking out the words "twenty-four," where they occur in the seventh line of the bill, and inserting in lieu thereof the word "twenty;" and that as so amended the bill do pass.